

Forestry

The BLM manages 180,000 acres of commercial forest land in Idaho, with an estimated annual producing capacity of 17 million board feet. Current commercial harvesting practices include limited clear-cutting in salvage areas, selective thinning of overstocked forests, and individual sawlog sale. In addition to the sale of sawlogs, the forestry program includes the sale of minor products such as fuelwood, post, poles, and Christmas trees.

“The sale of 3 million board feet of timber on public lands in Idaho generated \$849,800 in revenues for deposit into the Forest Ecosystem Health and Recovery Fund.”

- We continue to be responsive to the demand for wood products by industry and individuals, but at the same time we will harvest only as many acres as can be reforested and will not exceed the allowable sale quantity.
- Emphasis in Idaho is to thin over-dense forests in the wildland-urban interface, and to salvage dead and dying trees.
- About 527,000 acres of woodlands are also managed, but less intensively than the commercial forest land.

Vegetative Inventory

- To determine the risk of insect attack and threat of wildfire, 3,431 acres were inventoried to determine where restoration activities are needed to make Idaho’s forests more resilient to disturbance events such as catastrophic wildfire and insect outbreaks.

Management Treatments

- The sale of trees for non-restorative treatments (rights-of-way, post and pole sales, and firewood) yielded \$15,170.
- Revenue from the sale of Christmas trees totaled \$340, and settlement of timber trespass cases amounted to \$17,907.

Restoration Treatments

- Timber salvage sales, thinning, and the treatment of hazardous fuels reduced the risk of catastrophic disturbance events, such as wildfires on 2,600 acres of forested lands.

- The sale of timber generated \$849,800 in revenues for deposit into the Forest Ecosystem Health and Recovery Fund.
- Reforestation activities included the planting of 91 acres, of which 45 acres were of genetically improved blister-rust resistant western white pine.



Wildland Fire Management

The Fire Management program in Idaho BLM continued to grow and change in FY 2002. With continued National Fire Plan funding, Idaho was able to add many needed positions and make significant progress treating hazardous fuels in wildland areas and around communities at risk. Most importantly, we are pleased to report no significant accidents or injuries this year.

FY 2002 was a below average fire year for both the number of fires and acres. Idaho had 40 percent fewer fires (112) than the 10-year average, and 70 percent fewer acres burned. This may be attributed to the prolonged drought conditions that did not allow normal growth of grasses and a considerable drop in human-caused fires (158 fewer than 2001) due to an aggressive public education campaign that included television, radio, and print ads, billboards, Web site, and multiple public education events around the State.

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- The Idaho BLM Fuels program continues to be one of the best in BLM.
- In 2002, Idaho BLM treated 68,826 acres for hazardous fuels, which accounted for 22 percent of BLM’s national total.
- Through cooperative agreements and contracts, Idaho was also able to assess and plan for even more treatment and community action programs in the years to come. This will help counties and communities to identify and reduce the threat of wildland fire.
- Idaho also continued to reach out to rural fire departments through BLM’s new Rural Fire Assistance program, which allocated a total of \$891,000 to 131 fire departments around the State for needed equipment, training, and prevention activities.
- With Governor Kempthorne signing the Idaho National Fire Plan Implementation Strategy in July, the year also brought a new way of doing business with our interagency partners.
- In addition to our work in nearly 40 communities across Idaho, the new strategy expands our efforts from community to county-wide wildland fire mitigation planning.
- In 2002, Idaho either began or continued work in 21 different counties across the State

in an effort to involve local government in the wildland fire risk assessment and planning processes.

Wildland Fire Management Highlights

Fuels Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Treated 28,572 acres in the wildland-urban interface.◆ Treated 39,543 acres to reduce hazardous fuels and for resource benefit. Of these, 2,256 acres were accomplished with joint funding from resource program.◆ Allocated 59 percent of the total fuels budget went to over 100 contracts for a total of \$9 million. A majority of these contracts went to local contractors.◆ Completed monitoring on 16,149 acres.◆ Completed inventories on 441,740 acres.◆ Completed 63 total plans, including burn plans, NEPA, monitoring, watershed, interdisciplinary teamwork, and mitigation.
Rural Fire Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Completed 14 wildland fire Assessments and Mitigation plans for 10 communities and 4 counties under the Communities at Risk program.◆ Distributed \$891,000 to 131 Rural Fire Departments as part of the National Fire Plan's Rural Fire Assistance Program.◆ Received another \$117,776 in matching dollars from the Rural Fire Departments, bringing the total to \$1,008,776.◆ Spent Rural Fire Assistance funding on equipment (\$886,000), training (\$72,000), and prevention (\$50,000).
Fire Personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Increased fire personnel by 53 permanent and temporary employees, for a total increase of 16 percent. This level of personnel is identified in Idaho BLM's Fire Plan as our "Most Efficient Level."◆ Officially certified the Snake River Hotshot Crew located in Pocatello, which was established in 2001.

Fire Employee
Development,
Training &
Recruitment

- ◆ The office of Fire and Aviation at the Idaho State Office filled the Fire Employee Development and Training Coordinator position. This position will oversee development, training, and recruitment as well as establish a mentoring program in Idaho.
- ◆ Completed wildland fire training for nearly 950 firefighters from 78 rural fire departments.
- ◆ Of the new hires in FY 2002, 21 percent were minorities, 40 percent were women (including minority women), and 60 percent were minority men.
- ◆ Continued to work with multiple minority groups and with Idaho's Universities to recruit minority candidates for seasonal and permanent positions.

Safety

- ◆ No fatalities or serious accidents to report during FY 2002.

Communities at Risk
& Public Education
(Reducing the threat
and impact of wildfire
on Idaho)

- ◆ An interagency, Statewide media campaign spent \$225,000 on public education initiatives including television, radio, and print public service announcements; FireWise Cleanup Days, local community events, website maintenance, and billboards.
- ◆ Held several FireWise Community Cleanup Days in conjunction with local volunteer groups to remove flammable vegetation.
- ◆ Continued cooperative education programs with partners from the Idaho Fire Chiefs Association, State Farm Insurance, Student Conservation Association, Boy Scouts, Resource Conservation & Development Councils, Keep Idaho Green, and many others.
- ◆ Working with 39 Idaho Communities at Risk (as identified in the Federal Register) and 21 counties through a variety of contracts and agreements to reduce the threat of wildfire and to educate homeowners.